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Letter from Linda Grace Hoyer to John Updike, March 7, 1951

Linda Grace Hoyer

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March 7, 1951

Dear John:

I feel deeply indebted to you for the very great help your research has been to me. Next to knowing a thing, it is nice to know that practically no one else knows it either. We will continue, then, in the happy belief the man was born in ^{Mer-}vas and, being both intelligent and poor and puny, went as a page to ^Nunez de Guzman who was, at that time, a student at Salamanca. Since the Guzmans were always on Isabel's side, it would have been altogether possible that she saw him fairly soon after her marriage and took him into the royal household where she ran a kind of royal nursery for little knights.

Thanks, too, for getting the paper. I shall be in need of it by tomorrow night. But with the family wash to be done on Friday, ^{it} should be in plenty of time if it reaches us on Friday after noon.

Did I say Perry? I said Ferry. But this typewriter is inclined to do a good deal as it pleases. I shall, however, watch Mr. Ferry's relations with my typewriter very carefully. Having no delicacy, natural or otherwise, I have indeed to watch a number of things very carefully and it is not easy. So, I leave Mr. Ferry to your watch and care.

Congratulations on the letter from Mr. Charles Hyde Pratt. He publishes a very impressive little magazine and I think you are lucky to have met him while you are both young enough to enjoy each other.

After the sermon on sharing, your progenitors are getting along with an unprecedented politeness and good will. Just what they needed, I guess. The effects of the weather must not be underestimated though. The "smale fowles" are making melody and Roy has plowed a slice of the field directly in line with me. There is a handful of snowdrops in bloom and small patch of green in the meadow. The time for going back to the land is close and I am far from prepared for the change, having still about one hundred and fifty pages of the "book" to do. The chance of getting it done before April first is shrinking because an early spring will mean that all sorts of other things should be undertaken this month. Unfortunately, I subscribed to the SRL and have, as a result of the comparison between its writing and mine, a less happy opinion of my chances at a sale. Bennett Cerf has a hideous little article in it, too, on the author's share in the "pushing" of the book after it is written. I'm trying hard to believe he was joking.

Thanks for every thing.

Your progenitors.

